

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Interim Commissioner

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Public Health
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING **October 27, 2010 7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

June 16, 2010 meeting minutes approved

AED program

Linda described the expansion of the AED (automated defibrillator program). AED's are located in all school buildings, City Hall, Newton Free Library, Senior Center and 4 DPW yards. The City is now looking to expand to all park and recreation buildings. Training has been provided by the Cataldo Ambulance Service at no cost. Marva said that public/private partnerships should be encouraged. Dr Marcus talked about the new CPR guidelines.

Mayor's initiatives

Linda explained the cluster meetings that Mayor Warren has set up for all departments. The HHS department attends 3 clusters; public safety, community life and economic development. The cluster meetings provide the opportunity to share program ideas and work together.

Linda explained the creation of the CSI (citizen support initiative) group. This meeting is held weekly and is attended by the law department, senior center, police and health. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss individuals that frequent our departments with problems that are difficult to resolve. Sometimes the resident has a personal issue that makes it more challenging. This group problem-solves in a collaborative way to address the need.

Seasonal flu

Linda discussed the vaccination efforts in the schools. The flu vaccine will be given in all school buildings. This poses a problem for some pediatricians who need to have the date in the medical record. Dr Marcus asked about 2nd shots. Linda said the department will not provide second shots. Dr Marcus also noted there is no shortage of vaccine and her practice started vaccinating early.

Public and employee vaccine program

Linda said vaccine is abundant. The city wide clinic was held on Oct 20 with 450 residents participating. The nurses visit all public housing and employee sites. No issues this year.

Department Updates- Personnel update

Housing inspector is out on a family medical leave of absence. David Naparstek is back part time to assist in that area.

The audiologist for the HHS department has resigned. Dr Marcus asked if there are statistics of the number of failed hearing tests over the years. Linda said we have number of failures in the past 5 years on the computer program. Dr Marcus said it would be interesting to note if the number has decreased since the 1990's due to the reduction of ear infections.

HHS Commissioner position was posted on Monday, October 25. Julia offered to participate by looking at resumes as she has had a lot of experience in the hiring process. She suggested the resumes get circulated and the members rank them. Linda will bring the suggestion to the Human Resources Department. Dr Marcus said the advisory council had an active role in hiring the previous commissioner. Linda said she thought a member of the council would be asked to sit on the search committee. She will pass along the suggestions to Human Resources.

Other Business

Dr Marcus suggested any failed hearing test should not be retested less than 14 days especially if the child had a head cold. Fluid in the ears remains for a long time causing the child to repeatedly fail. Dr Marcus asked if a tympanometer was used. Linda said no, only the audiologist used one. The school nurse uses the pure tone test only. Linda will pass this information along to the school nurse supervisor.

Linda Katz asked for information about bed bugs and if the health department is involved with inspecting the hotels. Linda Walsh said the inspectors have no authority to go into hotels to inspect for bed bugs. They will, however, respond to complaints. The department received one complaint from a hotel guest. The hotel was contacted and asked about their policy and encouraged to use a pest control company.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Linda Walsh